From the desk of:
Medaria Arradondo
Chief of Police
Minneapolis Police Department
350 South 5th Street, Room 130
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 673-3550

**TO:** **Officer Benjamin Chaput Badge #1090**

**CC:** **MPD Internal Affairs**

**DATE:** **December 2, 2020**

**RE:** **OPCR Administrative/Investigation Case #20-04676**

**CHIEF'S DECISION:**

**☐Discharge**

**XSuspension** **Duration: 10 Hours for Officer Chaput**

**X Written Reprimand for Officers Chaput**

**☐Permanent Demotion**

**☐Temporary Demotion Duration:_____**

## SUMMARY OF BASIS FOR DECISION

This memo summarizes my approach and reasoning for my decision as Chief of the Minneapolis Police Department that Officer Benjamin Chaput receive a 10 Hour Suspension as well as a Written Reprimand. This memo accompanies the enclosed MPD Worksheet.

**Policies Violated:**

**MPD 7-314 (IV) (A) (6) Domestic Abuse**

**MPD 5-102 Code of Ethics**

**Facts Supporting Decision (*see also* Investigation Summary):**

On Friday March 20th, 2020 Officer Chaput and Officer Payne worked together in the Fourth Precinct. They worked as partners in Squad 462. According to Visinet[1], Officer Chaput and Officer Payne were assigned at 2013 hours to an Unknown Trouble call (Case Number 20-074778).

The call was located at [redacted] The remarks in the call indicated that an off-site caller called 911 on their granddaughter's behalf. The granddaughter in need was a [redacted] Remarks in call indicated that a male named [redacted] had assaulted [redacted] in the past.

Officer Chaput and Officer Payne arrived at the address and located the adult granddaughter, [redacted] was initially evasive and did not indicate that she had been assaulted by her ex-boyfriend [redacted]. [redacted] indicated that she just wanted a male gone from her home. Officers searched the dwelling twice and the male was not located. Later in the call, [redacted] pointed to her head and indicated that she had been abused. [redacted] mentioned that she had an Order for Protection. Officer Chaput and Officer Payne informed [redacted] to call if the unwanted male retuned. Both officers cleared the scene.

On Saturday March 21st, 2020, Officer Chaput was off duty, in plain clothes, and in the City of Minneapolis to work out. At approximately 2:30 PM, Officer Chaput arrived back at [redacted] to check on [redacted]. Chaput was let in by an adult male roommate, [redacted]. Chaput and [redacted] talked about the previous night's call and the type of paperwork needed for her to complete. Their conversation continued from the kitchen and into [redacted] bedroom.

[1] Visinet Incident Detail Report 20-074778

[redacted] and Chaput exchanged phone numbers. Chaput was at [redacted] residence for approximately thirty minutes. Later in the afternoon, [redacted] initiated a text messaging conversation with Chaput that was limited in duration. No other contact h occurred since March 21, 2020.

[redacted] was in contact with [redacted] informed [redacted] that she felt Chaput's actions off duty were sexual in nature. [redacted] notified [redacted] about Chaput's off duty actions. [redacted] notified the Minneapolis Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit with a memo.

Upon the completion of this thorough investigation I reviewed the investigative case file materials and made my decision.

**Facts of this Case**:

- Payne and Chaput were working together in the Fourth Precinct and respond to and Unknown Trouble Call. Remarks in the call indicated that an off-site caller had called for her granddaughter. Remarks in the call indicated that a male, [redacted], had been assaultive in the past.
- Officer Chaput and Payne were let in and spoke to an [redacted]. [redacted] was still in the shower and acted confused as to why there were Police Officers in her home. [redacted] denied talking to her grandmother and answered "no" when asked if she needed help.

- On both Chaput's and Payne's Body Worn Camera video, [redacted] was seen and heard whispering. She pointed to her eye and told Chaput that she had been abused. [redacted] indicated that the male may still be in the house. Chaput and Payne searched the basement twice. The male half fled out a basement window and was gone on arrival.
- [redacted] stated she had an Order for Protection, but Payne talked over her when he asked her some questions.
- [redacted] never asked for a Domestic Abuse Report.
- Both Payne and Chaput acknowledged that they could have been more thorough with their investigation.
- Chaput drove the squad car and Payne was the passenger that night. Traditionally, in the Minneapolis Police Department, the passenger completes reports when partners work together.
- Chaput felt empathetic for [redacted] and wanted to check in on her. [redacted] was initially excited to see Chaput at her home.
- Chaput and [redacted] had conversations about domestic paperwork and protection orders.
- Chaput and [redacted] talked in her kitchen and bedroom. The conversations were about [redacted] moving up north, an ant problem and about her in general.
- Chaput called her beautiful multiple times. Chaput thought [redacted] was looking for reassurance.
- Chaput touched [redacted] one time on her side as she walked by or was near him in the kitchen. He did not touch her at any other time.
- Chaput would put his hands-on top of his head, revealing his abdominal area. Chaput reported he did not show [redacted] any other body parts.
- [redacted] felt uncomfortable with Chaput's comments on her beauty, his mid-riff showing and the touch to her side.
- Chaput gave [redacted] his personal cell phone number. Chaput felt he could assist her in the future with any resources.
- Chaput visited with [redacted] for an estimated fifteen to thirty minutes. [redacted] roommate, [redacted], was in the living room for Chaput's visit.
- [redacted] initiated a text messaging conversation with Chaput later that same day.
- Chaput felt that the messaging was going in a direction that he did not want it to go and blocked her number. Chaput did not receive the last two texts from [redacted].
- [redacted] felt that she was vulnerable due to the recent domestic abuse, history of homelessness, and mental health issues.
- Chaput realized he was trying to be empathetic, but that he did not possess the proper resources to assist [redacted].
- At the time of his interview, Chaput had no further contact with [redacted].

As Chief of Police I am responsible for providing clear expectations on what is acceptable behavior in our workplaces as well as what will not be tolerated. Officer Chaput did not follow the MPD Domestic Abuse policy protocols. Officer Chaput also violated the MPD's Code of Ethics policy for his conduct while off-duty. The victim expressed she was vulnerable due to recent domestic abuse, history of homelessness, and mental health issues.

It is my decision that Officer Chaput receive a Written Reprimand for violating our department's Domestic Abuse policy and receive a 10 Hour Suspension for violating our department's Code of Ethics policy.

# Minneapolis Police Department
# Discipline Worksheet

Officer Benjamin Chaput Badge #1090 | 03/20/2020 | #20-04676

Employee's Name and ID Number | Date of Incident | Administrative Case Number

## Complaint Form (attached)

Form signed by: Names and Title (if City employee) | Date

## Receipt of OPCR File in Chief's Office

Received by: MPD Employee Name | Date

## Referral to Internal Affairs for Further Investigation (if applicable)

Referral made by: MPD Employee Name and Title | Date

## MPD Discipline Panel Recommendation – MPD Policy Violations

| | |
|---|---|
| 7-314 (IV) (A) (6) | Domestic Abuse |
| 5-102 | Code of Ethics |
| | |

12-2-20

Deputy Chief of Professional Standards | Date

## Loudermill – MPD Policy Violations

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| 7-314 (IV) (A) (6) | Domestic Abuse |
| 5-102 | Code of Ethics |
| | |

# Minneapolis Police Department
# Discipline Worksheet

Loudermill conducted by: Date

Attendees at Loudermill: _____

## Office of the Chief of Police

| Policy Number | Policy Description | Category | Disposition |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7-314 (IV) (A) (6) | Domestic Abuse | "B" | Written Reprimand |
| 5-102 | Code of Ethics | "B" | 10 Hours Suspension |
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## Chief's Discipline Decision

*See*: Discharge, Suspension, Involuntary Demotion form and Chief's Memorandum (attached)

Chief of Police 12/2/2020 Date

## Final Disposition, If Different From Chief's Original Decision

| [Grievance arbitration award, grievance settlement, Veterans Preference Hearing, resignation in lieu of discharge] |
|---|
| |

Final Disposition of Discipline Date

**Minneapolis Police Department**
**Discipline Worksheet**
**Date of Publication on City's Website**

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Memorandum Forwarded to: Date

MP-1408 (Revised 07/29)